

Convinced that the principles of the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment are as valid today as they were in 1972, and, together with the principles adopted in Nairobi at the session of a special character, provide basic guidance for effective and sustained environment progress.

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The major achievements of the Action Plan  
for the Human Environment

1. Concludes that the past decade has seen:

(a) Increased awareness among Governments and the public of the implications of environmental change, and acceptance that environmental protection consists not only of pollution abatement, but also of the rational use of natural resources for sustainable development;

(b) Provision for the environment in many national constitutions and administrative structures, creation of new environmental programmes at regional and international levels, and the extension and intensification of existing ones;

(c) Increased co-operation and collaboration among and between Governments and international organizations on environmental assessment and management;

(d) Efforts to protect the environment slowed down somewhat towards the end of the decade because of financial difficulties experienced by some countries;

(e) A worsening of environmental problems in developing countries arising from the present international economic order which has slowed down their development and the protection of their environment;

2. Considers that the sector-by-sector review of the implementation of the Action Plan suggests a mixed record of achievement. An over-all assessment is that fair-to-good progress has been made in implementing some of the elements of the Action Plan, while in respect of other elements the record has been very modest;

3. Further considers that major achievements and failures in the implementation of the Action Plan appear to be:

(a) In the area of environmental assessment:

(i) The Global Environmental Monitoring System is operating and expanding, although important gaps in the development, co-ordination, user applications and integration of the system components persist;